

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 23-25, 27 and 28 are amended, leaving claims 16, 19, 20, 22, 26, 29, 30 and 32 unchanged (claims 1-13, 21, and 31 were canceled in an earlier Amendment).

In the January 9, 2006 Advisory Action issued in the present application, each of claims 14-20, 22-30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by one or more of the following documents: German Patent No. DE 199 24 662 A1 (hereinafter “Block”), Netherlands Patent No. 1017344 (hereinafter “van de Laar”), and Korean Patent Publication No. 1020020072622 (hereinafter “Park”) as also described on pages 3 and 4 of the August 17, 2005 Office Action. Also in the January 9, 2006 Advisory Action, the Examiner takes the position that the relationship between the bent section of the wiper arm and the articulating bolt claimed in claims 14 and 23 is not claimed in a manner to overcome the cited prior art.

Claim 14 is hereby amended, and calls for:

Articulated wiper arm of a wiper apparatus for windows of motor vehicles, having on a free end and a non-free end opposite the free end, the free end of the articulated wiper arm having a device for detachably and pivotably connecting to a wiper blade, in particular for connecting to a non-articulated wiper blade, the device for connecting to the wiper blade being fixed to the wiper arm and comprising

an articulating bolt for pivotably carrying the wiper blade, and
a safety hook for partially gripping around the wiper blade in an operating position thereof,

wherein the safety hook is a bent section of the free end of the wiper arm, and the articulating bolt is located between the safety hook and the non-free end of the articulated wiper arm.

Claim 23 is also hereby amended, and calls for:

A windshield wiper assembly comprising:

an articulated wiper arm having a free end and a non-free end opposite the free end;

a wiper blade; and

a device for detachably and pivotably connecting the wiper arm and the wiper blade, the device being fixed to the wiper arm and including an articulating bolt pivotably carrying the wiper blade, and a safety hook partially gripping around the wiper blade in an operating position thereof, the safety hook being a bent section of the free end of the wiper arm,

wherein the articulating bolt is located between the safety hook and the non-free end of the articulated wiper arm.

As described in greater detail in the present application as originally filed, some embodiments of the present invention provide an articulated wiper arm or a windshield wiper assembly comprising a device for detachably and pivotably connecting a wiper arm and a wiper blade, wherein the device comprises an articulating bolt located between a non-free end of the wiper arm and a safety hook defined by a bent section of a free end of the wiper arm.

Neither Block, van de Laar, Park, nor their combination teach, describe, or suggest such a wiper arm or wiper assembly. In each reference, a pin extends from an end of the wiper arm, as does another protrusion (compared by the Examiner to the “safety hook” in claims 14 and 23) located between the pin and the non-free end of the wiper arm. Furthermore, Block, van de Laar, and Park all fail to provide any suggestion regarding modification of their respective devices to be similar to the wiper arm or windshield wiper assembly claimed in amended claims 14 and 23, nor why such a modification would be desirable.

Accordingly, and for other reasons not discussed herein, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 14 and 23 are novel and patentable over Block, van de Laar, and Park. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of amended claims 14 and 23 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 15-20 and 22, and claims 24-30 and 32 are each dependent upon amended claims 14 and 23, respectfully, and are allowable based upon amended claims 14 and 23 and upon other features and elements claimed in claims 15-20, 22, 24-30, and 32 but not discussed herein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art, that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment is therefore requested. If any issues remain outstanding upon entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Applicant's Representative at (414) 225-8266.

Respectfully submitted,



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